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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BROSS, EDWARD J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2126

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,234

Applicant(s)

KUBOTA, YOSHIYASU

Examiner

Edward Bross

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (6,138,178).

3. As to claim 1, Watanabe teaches the invention as claimed including an electronic device (20 Fig. 1) adapted to be detachably mounted to main equipment (10 Fig. 1) for exchanging optional data with the main equipment and for executing optional functions (col. 1, lines 28-33), said electronic device comprising:

a data memory unit (24 Fig. 1);

software data for a plurality of drivers stored in said data memory unit (col. 2, lines 7-8), said software data being operable to execute the optional functions with regard to a plurality of computer operating environments, respectively (Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 51-60); and

an output unit operable to output said software data from said data memory unit to the main equipment (21 and 11 Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 14-17, col. 6, lines 55-60).

4. As to claims 4 and 7, Watanabe teaches the invention as claimed including:

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a main apparatus having specific computer operating environment (10 Fig. 1); and
an electronic device (20 Fig. 1) detachably mounted to said main apparatus for
exchanging optional data with said main apparatus and for executing optional functions (col. 1,
lines 28-33) said electronic device including a data memory unit (24 Fig. 1), software data for a
plurality of drivers stored in said data memory unit (col. 2, lines 7-8), said software data being
operable to execute said optional functions with regard to a plurality of computer operating
environments, respectively (Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 51-60);

said main apparatus including an identification unit operable to identify said software
data stored in said data memory unit of said electronic device, and to obtain a selected one of
said software data corresponding to said specific computer operating environment (col. 2, lines
6-17, col. 6 lines 55-60 and col. 7 lines 7-58).

5. As to claims 2, 5 and 8, Watanabe teaches said software data are stored in said data
memory using a file format (Figs. 2-6, col. 5 lines 8-22), and said identification unit identifies
said selected one of said software data using said file format (col. 7, lines 7-42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the
manner in which the invention was made.

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7. Claims 3, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (6,138,178).

8. As to claims 3, 6 and 9, Watanabe does not disclose storage addresses corresponding to keywords identifying said plurality of drivers are stored at leaders of address spaces in said data memory unit said software data are stored in said storage addresses corresponding to said keywords, and said identification unit identifies said selected one of said software data on the basis of said keywords. However, such a keyword/offset index pairing is well known in the art.

9. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use such a keyword/offset pairing to indicate the location of the drivers in the system of Watanabe in order to reduce the complexity and cost of implementation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Bross whose telephone number is 703-305-8754. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on 703-305-9678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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